Application No. 09/943,956

**REMARKS** 

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above claim amendments in the application

prior to examination. Claims 1-27 are now in the application. Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-11 have

been amended to more clearly define the invention. New claims 28-32 have been added to

provide claims of varying scope than those claims initially filed.

Please charge deposit account 13-2725 in the amount of \$650 for the additional claim

fees. No additional fee other than the \$650 is believed to be due for this preliminary amendment.

However, if this is not the case, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

deficiencies to deposit account number 13-2725.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this

application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone

number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

(404) 954-5100

Date: December 30, 2004

32962

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Murrell W. Blackburn

Reg. No. 50,881